Questions and Answers from the 2005 Statewide Meetings about the AmeriCorps*State Grant Request For Proposals (RFP) Process

Bowling Green – October 19
- Is there a certain amount or number of grants that will be for brand new grants?
    Yes, 15%.
- How many members can you ask for, is there a minimum/maximum?
    10 to 15 members will make the budget do-able, there is no maximum number.

Ashland – October 11
- Is this different than VISTA?
    Yes – in various ways. VISTAs develop the resources, recruit volunteers, and increase the capacity of the program. AmeriCorps members are required to do direct service.
- Is there a maximum number of members?
    No.
- Do you have to provide housing?
    No.
- Can we form a consortium?
    Yes – this is a good way to pool resources and meet the un-met needs of the community.
- Does the grant pay for a program/project director?
    Yes, you must have a full-time director; at 30 members, you need to add at least a part-time position.

Prestonsburg – October 17
- Where do you find the match money?
    Churches, PTA's, site matches, foundation or community grants.
- How do you recruit members?
    Newspapers, radio, DES, work of mouth, TV, public meetings, parents who already volunteer in the school, other volunteers.
- How much time do the members serve?
    Within a 12-month period, but not less than 9 months:
    1700 hours = full-time
    900 hours = half-time
- Are members allowed to have other jobs?
    Yes.
- Can members fund raise?
    Up to 10% of their time can be spent in fundraising for their project. (1700 hours for a full time member.)
- How do you determine how to set the salary for the program director?
    It would probably be based on a person's experience and education and the salary scales at the agency.

Louisville – October 14
- Will you continue to take questions after the grant is posted on web site?
    Yes, but the questions must go through Cabinet and will be posted to the web site.

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

- Can we get a copy of a budget narrative prior to Nov. 7?
    - *Yes.*
- Has the funding for this year gone up?
    - *This is a "big" funding year, they go in 3 year cycles.*
- What is the State Commission 1% set aside?
    - *This is money the Commission could take from our grantees but we have not done this in the past.*
- Can we apply for a program that is already in existence? Can we apply for more people?
    - *Yes, but you cannot displace a current employee with an AmeriCorps member.*
- How many grants get set forward?
    - *The applications have to be ranked by the readers/peer review.*
- Which is decided upon first, competitive or formula?
    - *Competitive funding is decided first, and then formula-funding decisions will be made.*
- Is there a minimum number of hours the member should serve?
    - *Most of our programs are full time, 1700 hours, but there are other options available such as part time.*
- Can a VISTA be an AmeriCorps Program Director?
    - *No.*
- Do you fill out the same application for VISTA?
    - *No, it is an entirely different process.*
- Can AmeriCorps members work or go to school?
    - *VISTA members can not, AmeriCorps State members can, but it can depend on the program.*
- Do we have to do a 3-year budget proposal for this application?
    - *No, just a one-year budget proposal.*
- What if you have a member that does not intend to go back to school?
    - *AmeriCorps members cannot transfer their education award and they are not eligible for a cash award. We encourage members to take full advantage of the education voucher. They have 7 years to utilize their education voucher.*
- Do AmeriCorps members have to have a certain degree?
    - *They have to at least be working toward a GED. Some programs may require more education to serve.*
- Can an AmeriCorps member do PR/Marketing?
    - *Not as their sole activity. AmeriCorps members engage in direct service.*
- Do we have to apply the federal fringe benefits?
    - *No.*
- Are there limits on the scrutiny we can put on potential members?
    - *No, in some cases, such as those serving vulnerable populations, in-depth background checks are a requirement.*
- Is there a site where we can see successful concepts?
    - *KCCVS website, AmeriCorps web site.*
- What happens if a member drops out?
    - *If they are under a certain number of hours, they can be replaced.*

Lexington – October 3
- How many people is a "break-even" to apply?
    - *10 to 15 members to make the budget work.*

- Should I focus locally or larger?
    - *This depends on the needs of the community and your program design.*
- Who do I contact to find out/interpret the needs?
    - *Look for current studies to illustrate needs, i.e. United Way surveys, the current census data, the Kids Count book, etc. Or host a community forum and ask people.*
- I'm an individual not associated with an organization. How do I find an organization to partner up with?
    - *Start looking for an agency that serves or addresses your issue. Try an on-line search.*
- What if we want something that is similar or like another program?
    - *The program design is up to the applicant, just make sure it is meeting a documented un-met community need. We currently have similar programs.*
- What are the current programs?
    - *Please see our web site, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov*

Highland Heights – October 5
- Is eGrants easy to use?
    - *Yes, and has gotten better in the last year with implementation of Phase II.*
- Can we get more in depth on the budget, how do you build a budget?
    - *We will offer a more in-depth training on Nov. 7*
- Can the member make more than the minimum living allowance?
    - *Yes, but many of our sub-grantees are not able to cover a higher match.*

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park – October 24
- How many members are available?
    - *You decide how many members to request. We recommend at least 10 members to make budget work. The number of members is subject to negotiation.*
- Can you negotiate your performance measures?
    - *Yes.*
- Is there a case where you would not send the application forward?
    - *Yes, if it is inappropriate for AmeriCorps or of poor quality.*

Owensboro – October 25
- Can in-kind be federal?
    - *No.*
- Do you show "extra" match money on the grant application?
    - *No, we recommend writing exactly what is asked for, no more or no less. You are held responsible for the amount of match you write.*